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REPORT NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

CONFIDENTIAL

TOPIC Military Information from Oschatz

25X1 VALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____ 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 15 to 18 February 1951

25X1 DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 11 March 1951

25X1 REFERENCES _____

PAGES ? ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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1. Between 15 and 18 February 1951, the barracks installations on Dresdener Strasse, Oschatz (N 52/E 71), were occupied beyond capacity by about 1,200 men of Tank Unit [REDACTED]. Most of the troops were recruits. According to the lights in the officers' billets in Barracks Building No 1, the building was occupied to capacity. [REDACTED] saw officers who were stationed in Oschatz for a long time. No heavy weapons or evidence of the presence of tanks were seen for weeks. The troops were engaged in infantry training which was frequently interrupted by practice alerts. Units were often seen practicing attack and penetration in the training area. A trench system, about 50 meters wide, with wire entanglements on one side had been constructed in the eastern section of the billeting area for demonstration purposes. Soldiers were frequently being instructed there. Soldiers practicing entrenching at the training field were seen building pits for machine guns and mortars out of snow blocks. 25X1

[REDACTED] All but four of the German barracks employees were discharged and replaced by trusted SED members for security reasons. *

2. The Flughafen Kaserne quartered about 1,500 troops belonging to a tank unit, an engineer unit, and a repair shop company. This strength figure was confirmed [REDACTED]. The lights observed after nightfall indicated that the installation was occupied to capacity. The engineer unit was issued new equipment, including wooden bridge section which arrived in mid-February. It was said that the unit had also received 40 trained soldiers. The area at the installation was criss-crossed by tank tracks. Student drivers were apparently trained on four T-34 tanks. Aiming and loading practicing with three AT guns of about 45 mm was observed near the installation. The gun crews consisted of five men each. 25X1

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* [REDACTED] Comment. From west to east the barracks installations adjoining one another on Dresdener Strasse are the Infanterie Kaserne, the Remonte Schule, and the Ulanen Kaserne. The 8th Mtz Rifle Regt [REDACTED] of the 9th Tank Div is believed to be stationed there. This hypothesis is corroborated by the infantry training observed there. 25X1B

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** [REDACTED] periodic reports on the Flughafen Kaserne, all of them to the same effect, have not been compared with pertinent information [REDACTED] since the beginning of 1950. Provided his statements are

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correct, the installation may quarter the 23rd Tank Regt, the unidentified engineer battalion and the repair shop company, all of the 9th Tank Div. [redacted]

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